

1988-11

BUSM News & Notes: November 1988 no. 123

<https://hdl.handle.net/2144/20925>

Boston University



Boston University
School of Medicine

November 1988
Issue #123

News & Notes

School of Medicine celebrates 20 years of participation in Framingham Heart Study

The School of Medicine recently celebrated 20 years of Boston University's participation in the Framingham Heart Study with a commemorative dinner at which three generations of Study directors gathered, including the first medical director, Thomas R. Dawber, M.D., a retired BUSM professor of medicine and public health. William B. Kannel, M.D., M.P.H., who is a professor of medicine and who took the reins from Dawber in 1966, hosted the dinner, which was held on Sept. 28 at the Castle on the Charles River Campus. Also attending the dinner was William P. Castelli, M.D., an adjunct associate professor of medicine and the current director of the Study.

William Zukel, M.D., former deputy director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's Division of Heart and Vascular Disease, discussed the role of Boston University in the history of the Study. Dean Emeritus John Sandson, M.D., also spoke at the event.

Dawber recounted how he became involved in the Framingham Heart Study and how the Study has affected the medical community. The Study, said Dawber, has had a major impact on how the physician views his or her role. Before the Study, the responsibilities of the physician lay in detecting, diagnosing and treating disease, he said. Now, he said, the physician is just as concerned with maintaining the health of the patient.

Day-long program featured offspring, talks

The following day, the Section of Preventive Medicine and Epidemiology of the School's Department of Medicine presented a day-long program at Framingham Union Hospital on "Contributions of the Framingham Study to the Conquest of Cardiovascular Disease."

Speakers included: **David L. Bachman, M.D.**, an assistant professor of neurology, who spoke on "Prevalence and Types of Dementia in the Framingham Community"; **Castelli**, who spoke on the "Framingham Study Perspective on the Status of the Diet-Heart Hypothesis"; **George Cytroen, M.D.**, an assistant clinical professor of medicine, **Lawrence M. Epstein, M.D.**, an assistant clinical professor of medicine, and **Donald E. Love, M.D.**, an assistant professor of medicine, all of whom spoke on "Reflections of the Framingham Physicians on the Framingham Study"; **Kannel**, who spoke on "Contributions of the Framingham Study to the Understanding of Coronary Risk Factors"; **Carlos S. Kase, M.D.**, an associate professor of neurology and pathology, who spoke on "Post-Stroke Disability in the Framingham Cohort"; **Joseph Stokes III, M.D.**, a professor of medicine



FRAMINGHAM STUDY DINNER SPEAKERS—Those who spoke during the Framingham Heart Study commemorative dinner were, from left to right, William B. Kannel, M.D., M.P.H., Thomas R. Dawber, M.D., Dean Emeritus John I. Sandson, M.D., and William Zukel, M.D., former deputy director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's Division of Heart and Vascular Disease. (Photo by Gustav Freedman)

and public health (epidemiology and biostatistics), who presented welcoming remarks and who, along with Kannel, coordinated the program; and **Philip A. Wolf, M.D.**, a professor of neurology and principal investigator of the Framingham Stroke Study, who spoke on "Framingham's Contribution to Risk Factors for Stroke." An afternoon program followed for Framingham Study offspring and their family members at which Castelli and **Daniel Levy, M.D.**, an assistant professor of medicine, discussed Study findings.

BUSM and BCH researchers to test new drug for treatment of AIDS

Researchers at the School of Medicine and Boston City Hospital are involved in a new drug trial to determine the safety and efficacy of dideoxyinosine (ddI) in the treatment of patients with AIDS or AIDS-related complex. DdI is a member of the same chemical group as AZT, which currently is the only approved treatment for AIDS. DdI works in the same manner as AZT: it inhibits an enzyme necessary for the replication of the HIV virus.

Between 20 and 40 patients will participate in the initial study at BCH. Patients will be hospitalized for 16 days while they receive ddI intravenously and subsequently will be given the drug orally for four additional weeks on an outpatient basis. It is

hoped that ddI will be as effective as AZT without some of AZT's side effects. The side effects, which can be serious enough that patients require blood transfusions and a reduction in dosage, may include anemia, suppression of white blood count and headaches.

Howard Liebman, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine at BUSM and medical director of the Clinical AIDS Service at BCH, is principal investigator of the study. Timothy Cooley, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine at BUSM and a member of the Clinical AIDS Service, is co-investigator. Ronald McCaffrey, M.D., a professor of medicine at BUSM, will provide laboratory support for the study.

International conference on impotence attracts specialists from 28 countries

The School of Medicine recently hosted the International Society for Impotence Research meeting, which was the largest conference of its kind ever held, according to Irwin Goldstein, M.D., an associate professor of urology and coordinator of the New England Male Reproductive Center at the University Hospital. In addition, the conference featured the first international symposium on female sexual dysfunction. The conference, which highlighted new findings concerning the diagnosis and treatment of impotence, took place in Boston and attracted more than 350 specialists from 28 countries.

More than 200 papers were presented at the meeting, many of them dealing with new findings. Researchers at BUSM are internationally known for their work in impotence and the School houses one of the largest National Institutes of Health-funded research laboratories for impotence.

Speakers at the conference from BUSM included: Irwin Goldstein, M.D., and Robert J. Krane, M.D., chairman of the BUSM Department of Urology, chief of urology at UH and co-director of the New England Male Reproductive Center at UH, both of whom also were moderators; Mike B. Siroky, M.D., an associate professor of urology; and Herbert H. Wotiz, Ph.D., a professor of biochemistry, a research professor of urology and director of BUSM's Humphrey Cancer Research Center.

Nobel laureate, faculty report on latest Alzheimer's research at VA conference

The School of Medicine and the Geriatric Research, Evaluation and Care Center (GRECC) at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital recently co-sponsored a symposium on "Advances in Alzheimer's Research" at which a Nobel laureate and several BUSM faculty members spoke.

Keynote speaker Carleton Gajdusek, M.D., chief of the Laboratory of Central Nervous System Studies at the National Institute of Neurological Communicative Disorders and Stroke in Bethesda, Md., in 1977 was awarded the Nobel Prize in physiology and medicine. Gajdusek, who is noted for his discoveries of slow virus infections as a result of his field work on kuru, a chronic degenerative slow virus disease of the central nervous system, spoke on "Transmissible and Nontransmissible

Amyloidosis of the Brain: Slow Virus Dementias, Normal Aging and Alzheimer's Disease."

Other speakers and their topics included: **Richard E. Fine, Ph.D.**, a professor of biochemistry and director of GRECC, and **Michael Kane**, director of the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital, both of whom presented welcoming remarks; **Gerhard Heinrich, M.D.**, an assistant professor of medicine and neuroscience, who spoke on "Molecular Genetics of Human Nerve Growth Factor: Possible Role in the Treatment of Alzheimer's Disease"; **Thomas Kemper, M.D.**, a professor of neurology, who spoke on "New Thoughts on the Neuropathy of Alzheimer's Disease"; **Mark Moss, Ph.D.**, an assistant professor of anatomy and neurology, who spoke on "Role of the Basal Forebrain and Hippocampus in Alzheimer's Disease"; **Richard Myers, Ph.D.**, an associate professor of neurology, who spoke on "Assessment of Genetic Risk for Alzheimer's Disease Among First Degree Relatives"; **Miriam Schweber, Ph.D.**, an assistant professor of biochemistry, who spoke on "Chromosome 21 DNA Levels in Alzheimer's Disease"; and **Ladislav Volicer, M.D., Ph.D.**, a professor of pharmacology and psychiatry, assistant professor of medicine and deputy director of GRECC, who spoke on "Endogenous Neurotoxin as a Cause of Alzheimer's Disease: Implications for Treatment Strategies."

BUSM researchers take part in study that tests photopheresis therapy

Howard Koh, M.D., an assistant professor of dermatology, medicine and public health at BUSM, and researchers at the School are taking part in a multi-center study that began this October to determine the effectiveness of photopheresis in treating chronic lymphocytic leukemia, one of the four major types of leukemia. Photopheresis is a new form of therapy that uses a drug activated by ultraviolet light to halt the replication of certain cancer cells.

Patients in the study will receive photopheresis therapy once every three weeks. Koh now uses the therapy to treat patients with Sezary's syndrome, a severe type of skin cancer. Sezary's syndrome causes extreme redness and scaling of the skin and can spread into the bloodstream, causing a form of leukemia.

According to Koh, who also is a dermatologist and oncologist at the University Hospital, it is not clear how the process works. However, photopheresis not only prevents cancer cells from replicating, but also appears to stimulate the body's immune response against the malignant cells. The University Hospital is the only institution in northern New England and one of only 12 institutions in the country offering photopheresis therapy.

SPH Health Law Section sponsors monthly Faculty Seminars on AIDS

The Health Law Section of the School of Public Health is sponsoring the Faculty Seminar on AIDS, a monthly brown-bag luncheon at which members of the BUSM and SPH faculty have an opportunity to learn about their colleagues' AIDS research. The meetings will be held from noon to 1 p.m. on the last Friday

of each month in Conference Room C-D on the second floor of the Atrium Pavilion.

The dates of the Seminar, which may vary because of holidays, are as follows: Wednesday, Nov. 9; Friday, Dec. 16; Friday, Jan. 27, 1989; Friday, Feb. 24; Friday, March 31; Friday, April 28; and Friday, May 26. For more information, please call coordinator Wendy K. Mariner, J.D., LL.M., M.P.H., an associate professor of health law, at x4626 (638-4626).

BUSM granted accreditation for training program in medical genetics

The newly established training program in medical genetics recently received a five-year accreditation by the American Board of Medical Genetics, according to Aubrey Milunsky, MB.B.Ch., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., D.C.H. Milunsky is director of BUSM's Center for Human Genetics and a professor of pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, and pathology.

The accreditation was approved for the following areas: M.D. clinical genetics, Ph.D. medical genetics, and clinical cytogenetics. The program allows individuals to receive formal training so that they may become board certified in the three areas.

New book by Joel Herskowitz, M.D., examines childhood depression

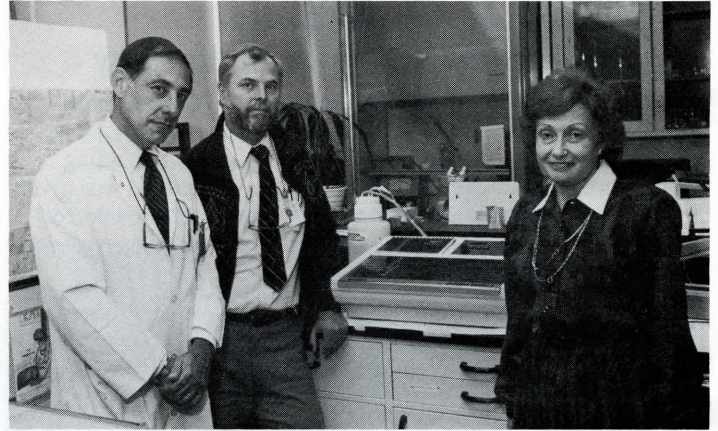
"Is Your Child Depressed?" (Pharos Books, New York, 1988) is a new book by Joel Herskowitz, M.D., an assistant clinical professor of pediatrics at the School. The book gives parents insight on recognizing and dealing with depression in their children, ages 4 to 19.

According to Herskowitz, the symptoms of depression in children often differ from depression in adults. A depressed child is more likely to be tired, irritable and angry. The child's schoolwork may suffer and he or she may gain or lose a significant amount of weight or experience frequent headaches or stomachaches.

New book by Wolf, Neiman looks at disorders of the spleen

Barbara C. Wolf, M.D., an assistant professor of pathology, and Richard S. Neiman, M.D., a professor of pathology and chief of the Hematopathology Section of the Mallory Institute of Pathology, recently co-authored "Disorders of the Spleen," (W.B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1988) a sourcebook that explores the anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology of the spleen.

The book covers such topics as functions of the spleen, differential diagnosis of diseases involving the organ, the latest in spleen-related immunology, Hodgkin's disease, leukemias and hyper- and hyposplenism. The text is supplemented by photomicrographs and color plates.



AID FOR CANCER RESEARCH DONATION—Richard Neiman, M.D., far left, was among cancer researchers at the Mallory who recently received new equipment donated by Aid for Cancer Research. Shown here with Neiman are hematopathology fellow George Wade, M.D., Ph.D., center, and Florence Litchman, chairwoman of the ACR presentation committee. A tour of the labs and a reception recently was held to express appreciation to the group. (Photo by David Keough, BUSM Educational Media Support Center)

Aid for Cancer Research donates funds for new equipment at the Mallory

Aid for Cancer Research, a group of volunteers who raise money for cancer research, recently provided funds for the purchase of three new pieces of equipment for BUSM cancer researchers at the Mallory Institute of Pathology.

Richard Neiman, M.D., a professor of pathology and chief of the Hematopathology Section of the Mallory, received a Probe-Tek Automated Southern Blot Analyzer, which detects molecular changes in cancer cells before they can be detected by routine immunologic or microscopic methods. Michael O'Brien, M.D., a professor of pathology and associate director of the Mallory, received a Cyto-tek Cytocentrifuge and a Histostat Cryostat Microtome for sectioning live tissue.

Boston University begins United Way campaign; goal set at \$125,000

The annual United Way Campaign was kicked off at Boston University on Oct. 5. The goal of this year's campaign, which will end Nov. 21, is \$125,000. The United Way raises funds for hundreds of health and human services agencies.

From Oct. 21 through Nov. 18, drawings will be held each Friday for those University employees who have contributed. The prizes range from theater tickets to a week-long winter vacation for two. Pledges may be made by cash, check, monthly payroll deductions or direct billing.

BUSM student receives award for achievement in science, technology

Richard Browne '91, a student in the Early Medical School Selection Program at BUSM, recently received the second annual White House Initiative Student Award for Outstanding Achievement in Science and Technology. The award was given by the 1988 White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities Science and Technology Advisory Committee.

Browne, who will complete his senior year of undergraduate work at BUSM, will return to the University of the Virgin Islands for graduation next spring. His goal after graduation is to work to improve the health-care in the Virgin Islands. The award was given to 34 students who were nominated by their peers.

Centerscope wins award for best cover

The School of Medicine's thrice-yearly magazine, *Centerscope*, recently received an award from *Magazine Design & Production* in the category of best cover for an educational magazine. The Fall 1987 issue of *Centerscope*, one of 1,100 entries from the United States and Canada, received the bronze Ozzie Award for Design Excellence. The cover, which depicted the cover story on epidemiology, was a photo of a ceramic illustration by freelance artist Ken Goldstrom.

Centerscope is produced by the Department of Marketing and Public Affairs' Office of Publication Services, Owen J. McNamara, director. The *Centerscope* staff consists of Marjorie H. Dwyer, managing editor; Cynthia A. Koury, editor; and Harry Breger, of the Boston University Graphic Design Office, designer. Donald R. Giller is director of Marketing and Public Affairs.

News & Notes is a publication of the Office of Publication Services. If you have news of interest to the BUSM community, please contact editor Cynthia Koury, x8482 (638-8482) or write to her at the Office of Publication Services, DOB-915 (720 Harrison Ave., Boston, MA 02118). Marge Dwyer is managing editor.

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720 Harrison Avenue, Suite 915
Boston, Massachusetts 02118

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